

STATE OF LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

July 8, 2004

ORDER NO. CGWA-1-04

Order concerning designation of a critical ground water
area in compliance with LSA R.S. 38:3097.6.

Pursuant to power delegated under the laws of the State of Louisiana, and particularly LSA-R.S. 38:3097.1, et seq., the following Order is issued and promulgated by the Commissioner of Conservation as being reasonably necessary to assure the most advantageous use of the state's ground water resources consistent with their protection, conservation and replenishment.

DEFINITIONS

"Application" shall mean the application for portions of the Sparta Aquifer to be designated as critical ground water areas submitted by the Sparta Ground Water Conservation District.

"Critical ground water area" shall mean an area in which, under current usage and normal environmental conditions, sustainability of an aquifer is not being maintained due to either movement of a salt water front, water level decline, or subsidence, resulting in unacceptable environmental, economic, social, or health impact, or causing serious adverse impact to an aquifer, considering the areal and temporal extent of all such impacts.

"Commissioner" shall mean the commissioner of conservation.

"Domestic well" shall mean a water well used exclusively to supply the household needs of the owner, lessee, or his family. Uses may include but are not limited to drinking, cooking, washing, sanitary purposes, lawn and garden watering, and caring for pets. Domestic wells shall also include wells used on private farms and ranches for the feeding and caring of pets and watering of lawns, excluding livestock, crops, and ponds.

"Ground water" is water suitable for any beneficial use percolating below the earth's surface which contains fewer than 10,000 mg/l total dissolved solids, including water suitable for domestic use or supply for a domestic water system.

"Sparta Aquifer" means that hydrogeologic unit in north Louisiana between the underlying Cane River Formation and the overlying Cook Mountain Formation.

"Sparta Ground Water Conservation District" shall mean that political subdivision of the state established by LSA R.S. 38:3087.132.

"Sustainability" means the development and use of ground water in a manner that can be maintained for the present and future time without causing unacceptable environmental, economic, social, or health consequences.

"User" shall mean any person who is making beneficial use of ground water from a well or wells owned or operated by such person.

"Well" or "water well" shall mean any well drilled or constructed for the principal purpose of producing ground water.

FINDINGS

The commissioner finds that:

1. An application for the designation of portions of the Sparta Aquifer to be declared critical ground water areas was submitted by the Sparta Groundwater Conservation District on July 25, 2002.
2. It was determined that additional information was needed for the application to be considered administratively complete. Such information was submitted on August 15, 2002.

3. The application was determined to be administratively complete on August 23, 2002.
4. A public hearing on the application was held in the Ruston High School Auditorium on November 19, 2002.
5. Designation of a critical ground water area is based on evidence substantiating that, under current usage and normal environmental conditions, sustainability of an aquifer is not being maintained resulting in unacceptable environmental, economic, social, or health impacts, or causing a serious adverse impact to an aquifer, considering the areal and temporal extent of all such impacts caused by at least one of the following criteria:
 - a. water level decline; and/or
 - b. movement of a saltwater front; and/or
 - c. subsidence in or from the aquifer caused by overall withdrawals
6. The areas identified in this order show clearly identifiable water level declines, as seen on Louisiana Ground-Water Map No. 13 "Hydrology and Potentiometric Surface, October, 1996, of the Sparta Aquifer in Northern Louisiana."
7. Further study needs to be conducted by appropriate parties to investigate salt water intrusion.
8. Insufficient information was provided to determine if the suggested surface water alternatives are feasible and would alleviate stress on the Sparta Aquifer.
9. An aggressive education program should be begun as soon as possible in Louisiana.
10. In order for the interests of owners of water wells which have not been previously registered to be known, the owners of such wells should endeavor to have their wells registered.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The portions of the Sparta Aquifer located in the following areas are declared to be critical ground water areas:
 - a. Monroe-West Monroe Critical Ground Water Area (Ouachita Parish)
 - i. Township 17 North, Range 3 East
 - ii. Township 17 North, Range 4 East
 - iii. Township 18 North, Range 3 East
 - iv. Township 18 North, Range 4 East
 - b. Ruston Critical Ground Water Area (Lincoln Parish)
 - i. Township 18 North, Range 2 West
 - ii. Township 18 North, Range 3 West
 - iii. Township 18 North, Range 4 West
 - c. Jonesboro-Hodge Critical Ground Water Area (Jackson and Bienville Parishes)
 - i. Township 14 North, Range 3 West
 - ii. Township 14 North, Range 4 West
 - iii. Township 15 North, Range 3 West
 - iv. Township 15 North, Range 4 West
2. Owners of each non-domestic water well in a critical ground water area, shall submit a monthly report (within 60 days of the end of the report month on forms to be provided by the Office of Conservation)

to the Commissioner showing the amount of water pumped on a monthly basis and the purpose for which it was used. The static water level in the well shall be reported when such information is available to the owner.

3. Restrictions on existing water wells within the Critical Ground Water Areas shall be made on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with LSA R.S. 3097.6(A).
4. Restrictions on new water wells within the Critical Ground Water Areas shall be made on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with LSA R.S. 3097.3(C)(4)(b)(1).
5. When there is obtained additional geological, engineering or other information which would indicate a required change or revision in the critical ground water area boundaries adopted herein, or which would indicate a required change or revision of other provisions of this order, the party or parties in possession of such additional information may petition the Commissioner of Conservation for a public hearing for the purpose of considering appropriate changes, in accordance with LAC 43:VI.301 et. seq.

This Order shall be effective on or after July 1, 2004

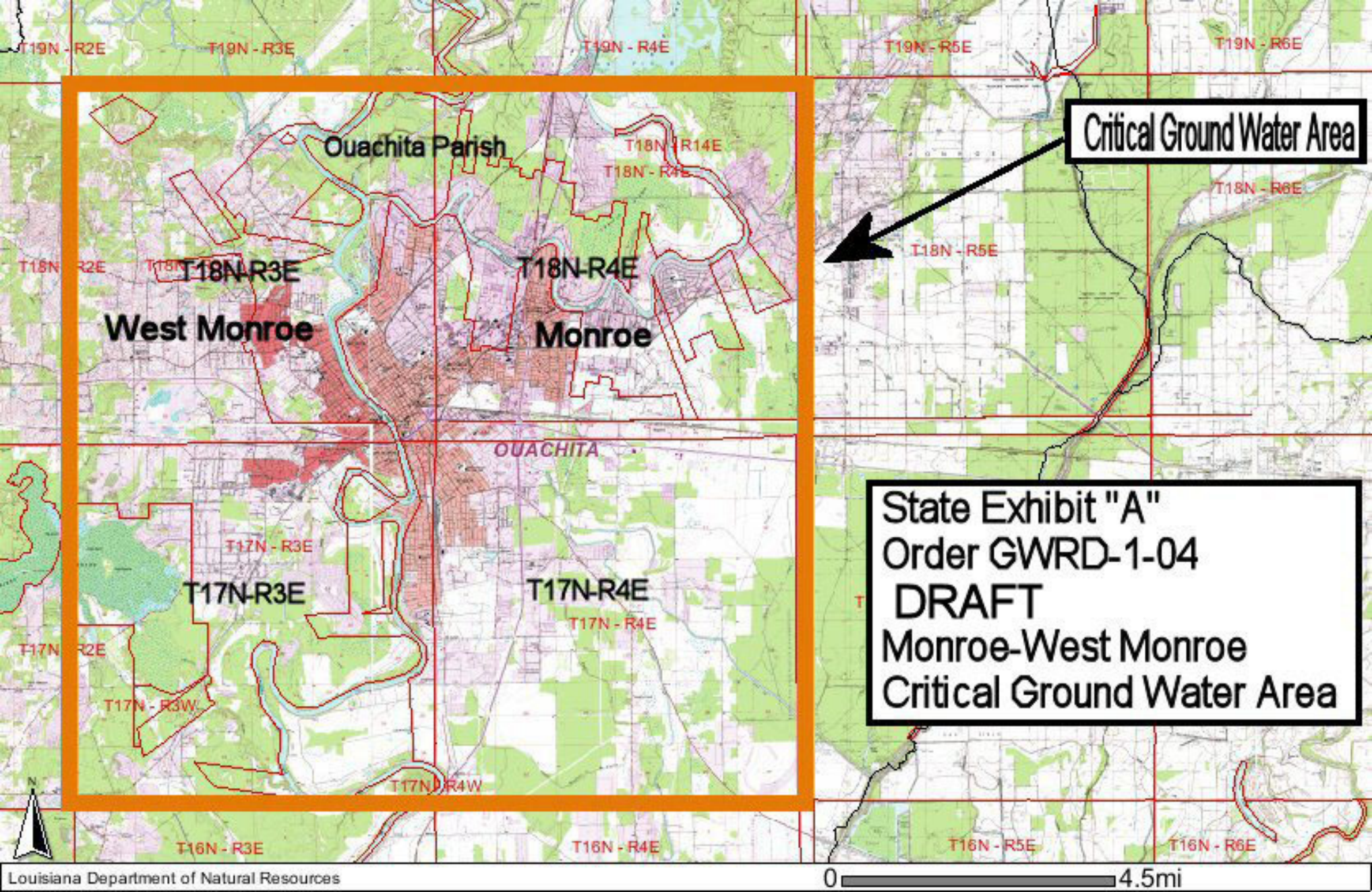
STATE OF LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION

JAMES H. WELSH
COMMISSIONER

JHW/ajd

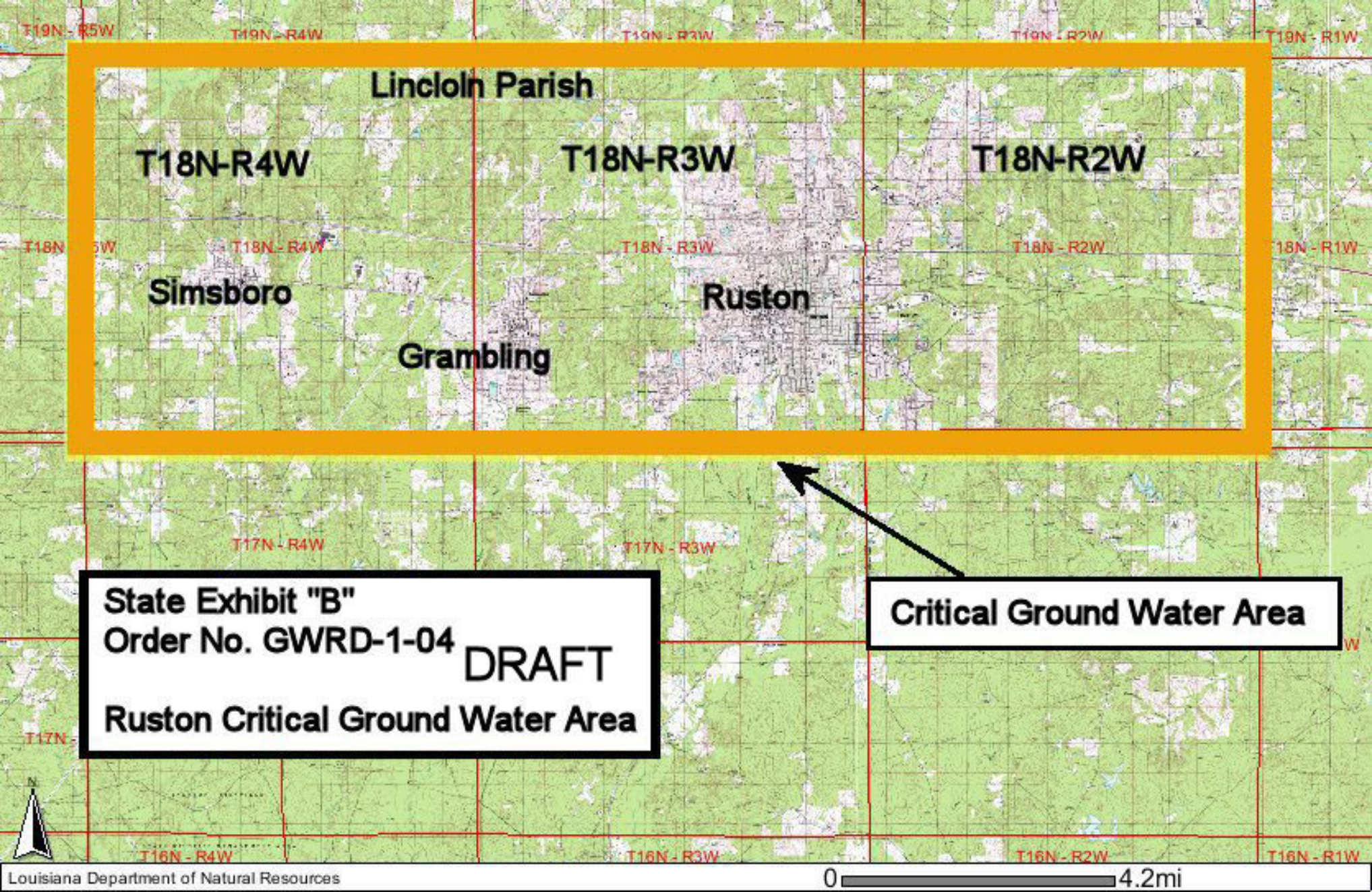
Attachments:

State Exhibit "A"
State Exhibit "B"
State Exhibit "C"



Critical Ground Water Area

State Exhibit "A"
Order GWRD-1-04
DRAFT
Monroe-West Monroe
Critical Ground Water Area



Lincoln Parish

T18N-R4W

T18N-R3W

T18N-R2W

Simsboro

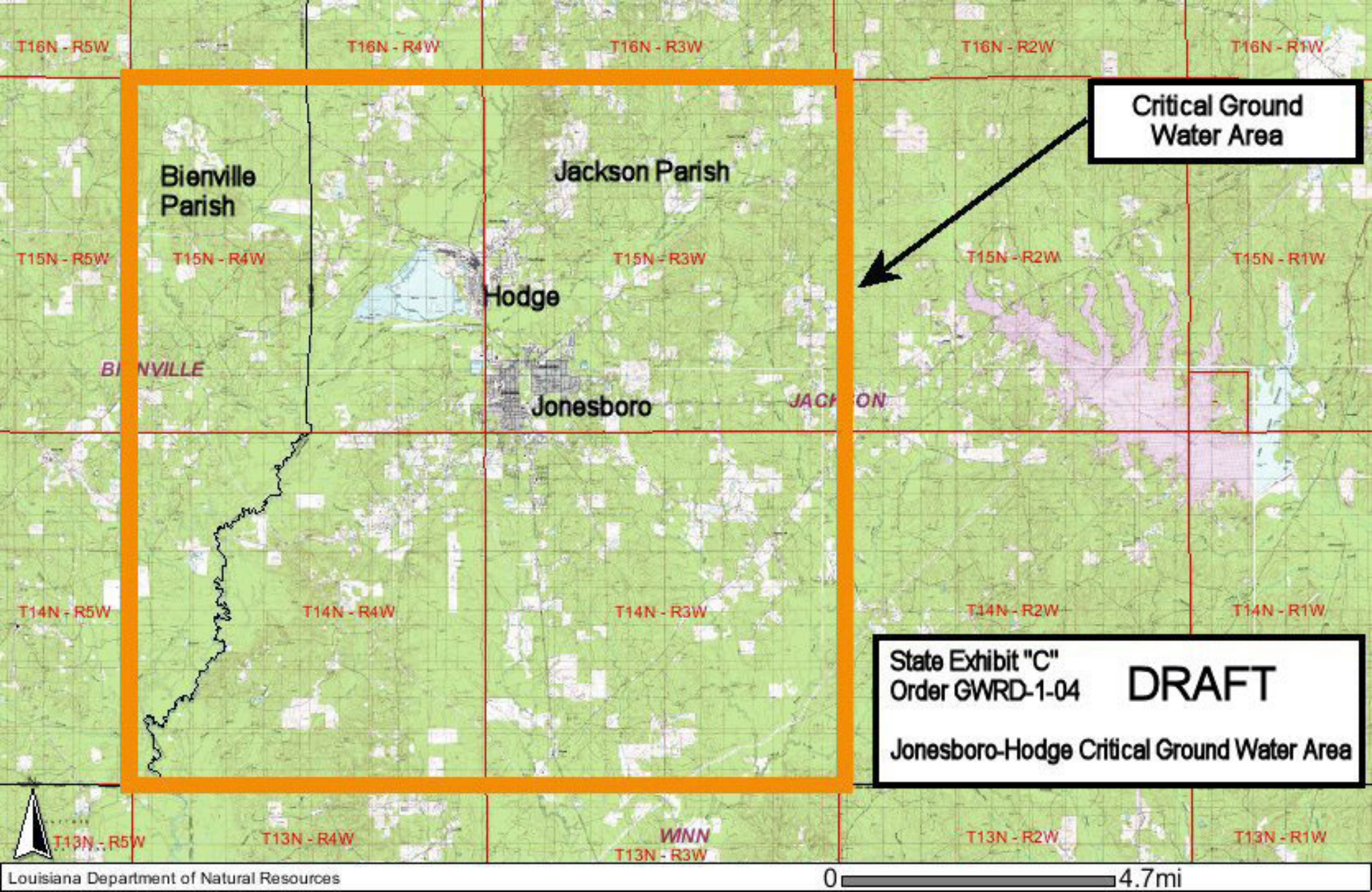
Grambling

Ruston

State Exhibit "B"
Order No. GWRD-1-04
DRAFT
Ruston Critical Ground Water Area

Critical Ground Water Area





**Critical Ground
Water Area**

State Exhibit "C"
Order GWRD-1-04

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Jonesboro-Hodge Critical Ground Water Area